

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

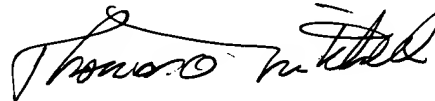
Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 11, 16-18, 24-26, 38, 41, 44, 49 and 50 were previously withdrawn. Applicants hereby cancel the withdrawn claims to facilitate the allowance of claims but applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application for all or some of the withdrawn claims and therefore this withdrawal should not be considered as an implied admission of unpatentability over prior art. In the preceding listing of claims, the status identifier of those claims has been changed from "withdrawn" to "canceled".

If there are any outstanding issues, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned for prompt resolution thereof.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 04-1579(56.0503) in the amount of any applicable fees.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas O. Mitchell  
Reg. No. 47,800  
Agent for Applicants

Date: Feb. 11, 2004  
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